

SENSITIVE

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SITUATION LISTING

DATE 04/24/73//114

SITUATION: HAK
SUBJECT CATALOGY: OUTGOING II

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE#
UNK512

OO MEXICO
DE WTE #1270 0830837
ZNR UUUUU
O 240835Z MAR 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK97
TO JON HOWE FOR DR. KISSINGER

ZEM

UNCLAS WH30859

TOHAK 97

NEWS SUMMARY

MARCH 24, 1973

(FRIDAY NETS, WIRES, COLUMNS)

CAMBODIAN FIGHTING AND LON NOL'S PROBLEMS FEATURED ON ABC/NBC FILM OF SIEGE AT RACH BAP WHICH ARVN HAS BROKEN. ALL NETS NOTED US TOLD NVA TO GET ITS SAMS OUT OF KHE SAHN OR THERE'LL BE "NECESSARY" ACTION TAKEN. ABC/NBC NOTED LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED, MISSILES WERE REMOVED. CBS SAID KHE SAHN NOW "BRISTLES" W/COMMUNIST EQUIPMENT AND MOST OF NVA'S 1100 ANTI-AIRCRAFT IN SOUTH HAD COME SINCE C-F. "ONE INDICATION OF HOW BADLY C-F IS WORKING," SAID CHANCELLOR... ALL NETS NOTED NO PROGRESS MADE SO FAR IN RESOLVING POW DISPUTE--THE LAST WERE SUPPOSED TO BE BACK THIS WEEKEND. NBC NOTED--AND CRONKITE IN LAOS SAID IT APPEARS NVN IS USING THE 10 POWS CAPTIVE THERE AS BARGAINING CHIPS IN GETTING WHAT MORE IT CAN IN THE PROPOSED LAOTIAN COALITION.

INDOCHINA

CRONKITE IN VIENTIANE SAID ALL OF THE LAST POWS MAY BE HELD UP IN THE INEXTRICABLE LAOTIAN SITUATION. THAT TINY BACKWATER OF THE INDOCHINA WAR. WALTER NOTED SPECULATION THAT RLG-PATHET LAO COALITION MIGHT HAVE BEEN READY FRI. FOR ARMED FORCES DAY, BUT MYSTERIOUSLY, THE COMMUNISTS RETURNED HOME AND NO ONE SEEKS TO KNOW WHY ALTHO THEY SEEM TO BE USING LAST POWS FOR LAST DITCH PRESSURE ON US/RLG.

NBC NOTED GVN AND COMMUNISTS ARRANGED "A UNIQUE TRUCE W/IN A TRUCE" FOR MEDEVAC HELICOPTERS TO LIFT 58 WOUNDED FROM RACH BAP. NBC FILM OF COMMUNISTS WEAPONS, NOTE OF CASUALTIES AND FACT THAT THE MONTH-LONG SHELLING WASN'T HANDLED BY ICCS OR JMC- "TOO DANGEROUS," THEY SAID.

POST'S LESCAZE NOTED THERE'VE BEEN "OTHER FLOPS" IN RELEASES AND NEITHER SIDE HAS BEEN "GOOD GUY" IN CARRYING OUT AGREEMENT. ASKED ABOUT NVA INFILTRATION AND WHAT US WOULD DO, NESSEN SAID HE DOESN'T THINK US WILL CARRY OUT ITS THREAT TIL TROOPS ARE OUT,

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BUT, HE ADDED, HE DOESN'T THINK ANYONE BELIEVES NVN/VC HAVE GIVEN UP IDEAS TO TAKE OVER SVN. CEASEFIRE JUST GIVES TIME FOR US AND POWS TO GET OUT, AND HE EXPECTS NVN/VC WILL CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE. LESCAZE WONDERS WHAT RN COULD DO IN RETALIATION. TO BOMB WOULD CREATE "GREAT PROBLEMS" BECAUSE IT WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER W/DRAWAL; AND HE BELIEVES RN WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE THAT APPROACH. SHORT OF BOMBING, THO, IT'S HARD TO SEE WHAT RN COULD DO, HE STATED, AND THEN NOTED NVN APPEARS EAGER FOR ECONOMIC AID SO INFILTRATION COULD MAKE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS DIFFICULT.

ABC NOTED 24 REFUGEES WERE KILLED AND 40 WOUNDED IN A COMMUNIST ROCKET ATTACK ON A RESETTLEMENT CAMP SW OF SAIGON...REFERRING TO REPORTS THAT NUMBER OF CIVILIAN "MILITARY ADVISERS" TO GVN HAS INCREASED FROM 5,000 TO 10,000, GAYLORD NELSON ASKED DOD TO MAKE PUBLIC "THE EXTENT, COST AND NATURE OF OUR CONTINUING INVOLVEMENT."

ABC'S CAMERON NOTED US WARPLANES INTENSIFIED BOMBING IN CAMBODIA, WHILE VN & LAOS CFS SIMMER AND THREATEN TO ERUPT INTO WAR, THE WAR IN CAMBODIA SHOWS NO SIGN OF ENDING. CAMERON NOTED US WANTS LON NOL TO END 1-MAN RULE CITING HIM AS PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF CORRUPTION. THO CORRUPTION "IS RULE IN ASIA," RECENT MILITARY SCANDALS HAVE ROCKED THE ARMY WHOSE GIS ASK ONLY FOOD FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND A LITTLE HELP FROM BUDDHA IN STAYING ALIVE. THO THEY'D ALSO LIKE PEACE, SAID CAMERON, THAT "SEEMS A LITTLE MUCH TO ASK."

STAN EVANS ON CBS SPECTRUM SAID IT'S BEEN CONFIRMED THE "PRICE" OF "DUBIOUS PEACE" IS "RETRIBUTION" TO NVN. HAK DENIED AND DOWNPLAYED IT, BUT NOW THIS HAS BEEN ABANDONED, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO OTHER SANCTIONS IN AGREEMENT, AID IS TO KEEP HANOI IN LINE. EVANS STATED TO COMPARE AID W/THAT GIVEN JAPAN AND GERMANY IS WRONG BECAUSE SITUATION IS DIFFERENT--IF RN'S ANALOGY WERE TO BE FOLLOWED, US SHOULD HAVE GIVEN AID TO HITLER AND TOJO. EVANS REJECTS IDEA OF GIVING PAYMENT TO NVN TO KEEP STRUGGLE FROM CONTINUING.

DOMESTICALLY, IT IS CALLED "BLACKMAIL," HE SAID.

LE FIGARO REPORTS RUMOR OUTGOING AMB. TO FRANCE, HUANG CHEN,

WILL HEAD PRC MISSION IN DC.

STATE DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF POST STORY THAT IRAN PLANS TO INSPECT ALL SHIPS ENTERING PERSIAN GULF. IRANIAN SPOKESMEN CALLED REPORT EXAGGERATED.

INFORMED DC SOURCES SAID SCALI WAS THREATENED W/PHYSICAL VIOLENCE BY TORRIJOS VIA AN AIDE IF HE VETOED PANAMA CANAL RESOLUTION. THE SOURCES SAID THE MESSAGE SUGGESTED "THE PEOPLE AND STUDENTS WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND A VETO AND THERE MIGHT BE VIOLENCE." TORRIJOS REPORTEDLY TOLD SCALI LATER THERE'D BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING AND THE MESSAGE HAD COME FROM HIS SECURITY PEOPLE IN AN EFFORT TO INFORM HIM OF POSSIBLE DANGER.

AP SAYS IT NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT ROGERS WILL TESTIFY BEFORE SENATE SUBCOM. INVESTIGATION ITT IN CHILE. BUT STATE SAYS A LAT.

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AMER, SPECIALIST WILL BE SENT...SENATE INVESTIGATORS SAY THEY'VE BEEN UNABLE TO UNCOVER ANY WRONGDOING BY CIA IN ITS CONTACT W/ITT. AN INFORMED SOURCE SAID A SPECIAL SENATE PANEL WHICH MET W/CIA OFFICIALS APPARENTLY IS SATISFIED FOR THE TIME BEING W/CIA'S EXPLANATION... A CHILEAN POLITICIAN, CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR EX-PRES. ALESSANDRI AT THE TIME, SAID HE TURNED DOWN AN OFFER FROM AN ITT PR EXEC. TO HELP ANTI-MARXISTS BLOCK ALLENDE.

DOLLAR/TRADE

EEC FINANCE MINISTERS AGREED IMF SHOULD HAVE BIGGER SAY IN ESTABLISHING CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES. BUT THEY ALSO REPORTEDLY OPPOSE US ON RULES FOR CHANGING CURRENCY VALUES.

ERHARD SAID FLOAT "MAY GRANT..A CERTAIN BREATHING PAUSE, BUT PROBABLY WON'T BE SUFFICIENT OR EVEN USABLE AS A FINAL SOLUTION," AND HE SAID A NEW MONETARY ORDER CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF US PARTICIPATES. A "PURELY EUROPEAN SOLUTION...IS PROBLEMATICAL EVEN IN A THEORETICAL SENSE, AND EVEN LESS WORKABLE IN PRACTICAL TERMS."

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